

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 11, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1790

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson

February 18, 2014

An act to amend Section 16125 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster children.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1790, as amended, Dickinson. Foster children: mental health services.

Existing law provides for the Adoption Assistance Program, administered by the State Department of Social Services, which provides for the payment by the department and counties of cash assistance to eligible families that adopt eligible children, and bases the amount of the payment on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the family. Under existing law, the department, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency is required, among other duties, to provide the prospective adoptive family with information on the availability of mental health services through the Medi-Cal program or other programs. Existing law provides that a foster child whose adoption has become final and who is receiving or is eligible to receive Adoption Assistance

Program assistance, including Medi-Cal, and whose foster care court supervision has been terminated, shall be provided medically necessary specialty mental health services by the local mental health plan in the county of residence of his or her adoptive parents, as specified.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to convene a stakeholder group to identify barriers to the provision of mental health services by mental health professionals with specialized clinical training in adoption or permanency issues to children receiving those medically necessary specialty mental health services. The bill would ~~authorize~~ *require* the stakeholder group to make specific recommendations *by September 30, 2015*, for voluntary measures to address those barriers, but would provide that those recommendations are not binding on any state or local government agency or private entity. The bill would require the stakeholder group to coordinate with, and endeavor not to duplicate, existing local, state, or national initiatives.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 16125 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 16125. A foster child whose adoption has become final, who
- 4 is receiving or is eligible to receive Adoption Assistance Program
- 5 assistance, including Medi-Cal, and whose foster care court
- 6 supervision has been terminated, shall be provided medically
- 7 necessary specialty mental health services by the local mental
- 8 health plan in the county of residence of his or her adoptive parents,
- 9 pursuant to all of the following:
- 10 (a) The host county mental health plan shall be responsible for
- 11 submitting the treatment authorization request (TAR) to the mental
- 12 health plan in the county of origin.
- 13 (b) The requesting public or private service provider shall
- 14 prepare the TAR.
- 15 (c) The county of origin shall retain responsibility for
- 16 authorization and reauthorization of services utilizing an expedited
- 17 TAR process.
- 18 (d) (1) The State Department of Social Services shall convene
- 19 a stakeholder group ~~comprised of adoptive parents, representatives~~
- 20 ~~from the mental health and child welfare fields, representatives~~

1 from relevant state and local agencies, and others, as appropriate,
2 to identify barriers to the provision of mental health services by
3 mental health professionals with specialized clinical training in
4 adoption or permanency issues to children who are receiving
5 services pursuant to this section. The stakeholder group ~~may~~ *shall*
6 *include, but is not limited to, all of the following persons:*

7 (A) *Adoptive parents.*

8 (B) *Former foster youth.*

9 (C) *Representatives from the mental health and child welfare*
10 *fields, including an association representing county mental health*
11 *departments.*

12 (D) *Representatives from mental health and social work*
13 *graduate degree-granting postsecondary education institutions.*

14 (E) *Representatives from relevant state and local agencies.*

15 (2) *The stakeholder group shall, on or before September 30,*
16 *2015, make specific recommendations for voluntary measures*
17 *available to state and local government agencies and private*
18 *entities, as appropriate, to address those barriers. The department*
19 *shall collect existing research and professional literature pertinent*
20 *to the need for specialized clinical training in adoption and*
21 *permanency issues, and shall distribute the information to the*
22 *stakeholder group for consideration and use in making its*
23 *recommendations.* The stakeholder group shall coordinate with,
24 and endeavor not to duplicate, existing local, state, or national
25 initiatives.

26 ~~(2)~~

27 (3) A recommendation made pursuant to paragraph ~~(1)~~ (2) shall
28 not be construed to be binding on any state or local government
29 agency or private entity.